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A MOST POPULAR RESORT



Bill McPhee's Saloon

by
Terrence Cole
From "A Walking Tour of Fairbanks"
published by the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society



In 1904, eight years after George Carmack first struck gold on the Klondike, a new Dawson appeared almost as if by magic on the banks of the Chena River twelve miles from Felix Pedro's gold strike. As one miner wrote when he reached Fairbanks in 1905: "My first impression was that I had alighted by some way in Dawson, for in looking around me I saw the same signs hanging from buildings, the same old horses and dogs in the streets, and the same old boys and girls in the saloons, doing the same old things for a living that they have been doing ever since they first struck the trail in '97."

At the corner of First and Lacey was one establishment that made miners feel as if they had never left Dawson - Bill McPhee's Washington Saloon.



Bill McPhee had come to the Yukon in 1888, ten years before the big stampede to the Klondike. It was to McPhee's Saloon at Fortymile that George Carmack first brought the news of his strike in 1896, and Bill joined the rush to Dawson where he opened the Pioneer Saloon. In a city of greenhorns like Dawson, McPhee was a genuine oldtimer and his watering hole was one of the most popular in town. W.F. Thompson, editor of the *Yukon Sun* in Dawson (and later the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*) wrote in 1903: "The memory of man runneth not back to the time when Bill McPhee first came to the Yukon."

When most of Dawson City seemed to be shipping down river to Fairbanks in 1904, Bill followed the trail to the American Klondike and he opened the Washington Saloon at the corner of First and Lacey. There were, of course, other things be-



side clean glasses and cold beer at McPhee's Place, as Bill's saloon was called. The old pioneer's "fine personality" made it one of the most "popular resorts" in Fairbanks. Bill was burned out in the great fire of 1906, but he had men at work thenext day constructing a new one story saloon and store building. A man he had grubstaked back in the old days at Fortymile, Clarence Berry, who had made millions in the Klondike, wired McPhee all the money he needed for the new building. No one who knew him ever forgot Bill McPhee.

At the age of 80, Bill left Alaska for San Francisco because his eyesight was almost gone. Five years later in 1927, the McPhee Building was being remodeled for a garage and when some workmen ripped out a partition they found \$8,500 in twenty dollar gold pieces in the wall of the old saloon.

Ed. Note: This interesting bottle appeared on eBay. Unfortunately, no size was given.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This month our special thanks go to Terrence Cole for allowing us to reprint his article on Bill McPhee, one of the north's early colorful characters.

Dave Phillips provides another installment in his "Money to Burn" column, this time looking at a Dairy Queen in Kotzebue.

Prices realized on eBay continue to be mixed. The good material continues to bring better than expected prices, while the more common tokens sell for opening bid or not at all.

There is a nice selection of items in "For the Record", as well as military challenge coins. We also present a few older tokens that we believe have not previously been illustrated.

The Midnight Sun Baseball game was a classic, and we were pleased to have a part in providing such a great souvenir. We, and the Goldpanners organization completely underestimated the demand.

Finally, if all goes well, there will be something interesting and fun on the front page of the next issue. And as usual, I will expect our subscribers and token collectors to help pay for my amusement. A long-time project is finally reaching completion I had hoped to have it for this issue. I am showing remarkable patience, not pestering the people helping me too much. But if it is not done by next week, I will be a basket case.

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THIS MONTH'S OFFERINGS





CHATANIKA: Good for one drink. Gold on light blue plastic. Only one in stock \$5.50.

(**FAIRBANKS**): Doyon Limited Daagá Fund, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Clean and Sober Lifestyle. See **FOR THE RECORD** on page 49. Only one in stock. \$8.00.

FAIRBANKS: Show Boat Show Club, Complimentary Free Admission card. See bottom of next page. \$3.00

FAIRBANKS: Tanana Lodge No. 3, Farthest North Masonic Lodge. See **FOR THE RECORD** on page 49. \$8.00

FOX: Howling Dog Saloon, good for one drink. Black on wood and red on wood. See **FOR THE RECORD** on page 50. \$7 each or \$12 for the pair.



VALDEZ: Pipeline Club, good for 1 call drink. Black on yellow, 60mm. \$7.00.

PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage, Canteen Bar, 12½¢, B-10a	OB45.00NB
Anchorage, Native Virgin Gold, B-30a with lo	op 738.00
Anchorage, Tradewinds, 1 Drink, B-36a	150.00OB
Atka, Sergius Golley, 50¢, B-1d	867.12
Bayview, Dalton, 25¢, B-1a	777.12
Bering River, Hoonah Pkg., \$5, B-1f	OB195.00OB
Bethel, NC Co., \$1, B-2c	OB150.00NB
Chatanika, Bingle Fritz, 25¢, B-1a	OB95.00NB
Chatanika, Bingle Fritz, \$1, B-1c	OB95.00NB
Circle, Eagle Saloon, 1 Drink, B-3a	605.00
Cordova, Horseshoe, 61/4¢, B-19a	49.00OB
Cordova, JW Little, 12½¢, B-22a	180.00OB
Cordova, The Mint, $6\frac{1}{4}$ ¢, B-25a	150.00OB
Cordova, Windsor Hotel, 61/4¢, B-41a	95.00OB
(Douglas), Island Bar, 5ϕ , unlisted	716.12
(Douglas), Salt Lake Bar, 6½¢, B-37a	1156.03
Eek, McIntyre, 25¢, B-1a	45.00OB
Egegik, Nakat Pkg, \$5, B-1f	157.50
Fairbanks, Chisolm & Hall, 12½¢, B-12a	150.00OB
Fairbanks , Eagle, J&B, 12½¢, B-14b	260.00
Fairbanks, Nevada Bar, \$1, B-37c	204.07
Goodnews Bay, Jean, 25¢, B-1a	30.00OB
Goodnews Bay, Jean, \$5, B-1d	30.00OB
(Goodnews Bay), Rutlader, B-1c	OB75.00NB
Haines, Heller & Co., 12½¢, B-7a	332.89
Haines, Lindsay Hotel, 121/2¢, B-10a	350.12
Hidden Inlet, Nakat Pkg. scrip booklet, B-1c	180.62
(Hot Springs), Morrison, 5¢, B-1a	157.00
Hyder, Bungalow, \$1, B-2c	95.00OB
Hyder, Northern, 25¢, B-4a	60.00OB
Juneau, Burford's, \$1, B-12d	OB150.00NB
Juneau, Giovanetti, 1 loaf, B-25a	705.00
Juneau, AH King, 5¢, B-42a	60.00OB
Juneau , Juneau Drug, 5¢, B-35a	275.00OB
Juneau, Louvre, 5¢, B-43b	67.66
Juneau, M&J, 6½¢, B-44a	OB275.00NB
Juneau, Occidental Bar, 12½¢, B-55a	OB40.00OB
Juneau , Snake Pit Downs, 25¢, B-66a	OB195.00NB
Juneau, Tony's Comet, 12½¢, B-69a	OB60.00NB
Juneau, Tony's Place, 12½¢, B-70a	OB95.00NB
Katalla, Johnston & Jensen, 6 ¹ / ₄ ¢, B-3b	400.03
Ketchikan, BPOE, 12½¢, B-5a	OB60.00NB
Ketchikan , Finzels, 5¢, B-15aii	74.39
Ketchikan, Hop Wo, \$1, B-17c	195.00OB
Ketchikan , Katchikan Pharm., 5¢, B-22a	86.00
Ketchikan, Lucky Spot, 25¢, B-32c	58.88
Ketchikan , The Mint, 12½¢, B-33a	OB25.00NB
Ketchikan, Northern Hotel, 6¼¢, B-38b	OB195.00NB
Ketchikan, Quality Bakery, 1 sm. Loaf, B-48a	OB25.00NB
Ketchikan, Scandia, 5¢, B-55a	OB40.00NB
Ketchikan, Scoug's, \$1, B-56d	OB40.00NB
Kodiak, Nelson & Kroth, 12½¢, B-11a	213.50
Latouche, Little, 12½¢, B-2a	125.00OB
Marshall, Betsch, 25¢, B-1a	908.12
McCarthy, Priesner, 25¢, B-5c	340.00
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Nenana, Terminal Cigar Store, 25¢, B-8a	570.00
Nome, Belmont, B-7a	OB150.00NB
Nome, NP Bakery, 5ϕ , B-39a	OB99.00NB
Palmer, ARRC, 5ϕ , B-1b	OB.98
Palmer, ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	26.25
Platinum, Alaska Traders, 50¢, B-1b, holed	610.00
Quinhagak, Jean, \$1, B-1c	OB35.00NB
Quinhagak, Jean, \$5, B-1d	OB45.00NB
Ruby , Pavillion, 12½¢, B-4b (holed)	420.00
Seward, Northern, 12½¢, B-8a	150.00OB
Seward, Northern, 12½¢, B-8c	OB30.00NB
Seward, Seward Bar, 12½¢, B-14a	29.95OB
Seward, Up & Up, 12½¢, B-18a	OB95.00NB
Shakan, AK Fish & Lbr., \$1, B-1a	625.12
Sitka, Anderson, 5¢, B-3b	125.00OB
Sitka, Witz, 5¢, B-17a	40.00OB
Skagway, BoT Billiard, 12½¢, B-4e	95.00OB
Skagway, Horseshoe, 6 ¹ / ₄ ¢, B-13a	OB75.00NB
Skagway, M&E, set of 7 B-16	OB140.00NB
Skagway, Seattle Saloon/Grimm, 12½¢, B-23ai	i 300.00
Snug Harbor, Pioneer Canneries, \$1.25, B-2a	OB40.00NB
Tonsina, Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a	OB40.00NB
Valdez, Blackwell/Rowdy, B-2a	OB250.00NB
Valdez, CB Buffet, 12½¢, B-4a	22.50
Valdez, CB Buffet, 12½¢, B-4a	OB141.00
Valdez, CB Buffet, 12½¢, B-4b	31.10
Valdez, I&B, no denomination, B-9b	OB90.00NB
Wrangell, Wrangell Hotel, 5¢, B-11a	60.00OB
Yakutat, St. Elias Pkg., \$1, B-2c	139.10
Lansing Creek, YT, Mervyn, 50¢	490.00
AYPE, encased cent, round	55.00
AYPE, ¹ / ₄ DWT, 1909	112.50
AYPE, 1 DWT	151.54
AYPE, 1 DWT	OB171.00NB
AYPE, Alaska Gold 3 pc. set	OB599.00NB
AK Gold, 2 Toowah (possibly brass)	392.00
AK Gold, ½ (Pinch), brass reproduction	100.00OB

 $OB = Opening \ Bid \ NB = No \ Bid \ RL = relist$ $RNM = Reserve \ Not \ Met \ R = Reserve$ $BIN = Buy \ it \ now$



We show this as this "club" is the successor to the Loney Lady (see June 1986, page 27), and because it is such a pretty lime green (black printing).

100th MIDNIGHT SUN BASEBALL GAME

It was standing room only, with fans standing in a roped off portion of the deepest part of the outfield. Hall of Famer Bobby Doerr of the Boston Red Sox threw out the first pitch. Sean Timmons of Fairbanks was the starting (and winning) pitcher. His game jersey was sent to the Baseball Hall of Fame shortly after the game. It just does get any better than this, and I missed it - I had to work!

The first game played at midnight on June 21 was held in 1906. The 2005 game marked the 100th contest.

The Alaska Goldpanners of Fairbanks celebrated the 100th playing of the Midnight Sun Baseball Game by beating the Omaha, Nebraska Strike Zone 3-1, and issueing a commemorative 1 oz. silver medal. With only 150 struck, they were a complete sell-out at the game.



Issue price was \$35, and frankly, I don't know where you might find one (sorry Kurtis)!

Don Dennis, general manager of the Goldpanners was so happy with the sales, he is thinking of doing a gold medal next year (that's a little over-kill and we wil try to talk him out of it and into doing another silver).

MONEY TO BURN



The Farthest North

KOTZEBUE: This town of 3,074 people lies on a sandspit at the end of the Baldwin Peninsula in Kotzebue Sound on the north west coast of Alaska and is 33 miles above the Arctic Circle. Kotzebue Sound was named after Otto von Kotzebue, a German mariner who was exploring for Russia, and "discovered" the Sound in 1818.

The site has been occupied by Inupiat Eskimos for hundreds of years. Today, the population is still 76% Inupiat.

Kotzebue developed into a supply center for the villages in northwestern Alaska. It was incorporated as a city in 1958.

GOOD FOR 1 FREE CUP OF COFFEE WORLD'S FURTHEST NORTH "DQ" STORE NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE KOTZEBUE, FREE FREE **Buster Bar** Large Cone Redeem only at Redeem only at Kotzebue, Alaska Kolzebue, Alaska DAIRY QUEEN" "DAIRY QUEEN" Above the Above the Arctic Arctic Circle Circle Small Sundae Redeem only at DAIRY QUEEN" Kotzebue, Alaska The World's Farthest North "DO"

The primary "industries" which provide employment are: government services; shipping, warehousing and transferring of goods; fishing; airport for the area, mining (primarily the Red Dog Mine) and some oil and gas exploration.

The four woods I am showing are all from the same issuer - a Dairy Queen. Can you imagine a Dairy Queen 33 miles above the Arctic Circle? It was in operation for a relatively short while (I am working on finding out precisely when this DQ was in operation). The building has the distictive Dairy Queen roof line, but is now being used by the National Park Service.

All four woods have red ink on both sides.

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



(ALASKA): US Army Warrant Officer, Top of the World Chapter. Black and white enamel on bronze, 1.8 inches.



(ALASKA): HHD, 59th Signal Battalion. Red, white, light blue, dark blue, brown, yellow and black enamel on bronze (right).



ALASKA: Alaska Army National Guard, State Adjutant General, Brigadier General Craig E. Campbell. Green, dark blue, light blue and gold on brass.



ALASKA: Alaska Army National Guard, Commanding General Craig N. Christensen. Red, white, light blue, dark blue and yellow enamel on brass.



FORT RICHARDSON: Home of America's Arctic Warriors. Red, yellow, blue, white, black and gray enamel on bronze.



KULIS AFB (ANCHORAGE): Alaska ANG, Feeling Alive in 2005, Kulis Family Day. Red, white and blue enamel on bronze, 1.8 inches (above right).





THULE, GREENLAND: 13th Space Warning Squadron, Top of the World/Crossing into the Arctic Circle 76° 36'N. Map of Greenland flanked by the flags of the U.S., Canada, Greenland and Denmark. Bright brass with red, white, blue and black enamel.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Most Challenge Coins are about 38 to 40mm, though some are larger. Sizes are not usually reported in eBay listings. All are shown at approximately 38mm, but it must be realized that unless the size is noted in the description, this may not be accurate.

FOR THE RECORD





ANCHORAGE: Spenard Pawn Snop, 1987, 50¢ in trade. Black on wood.





DELTA JCT.: Trophy Lodge, one drink. Black on white plastic, 31mm (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).





(**DOUGLAS**): Island Bar, 5¢ in trade. Brass, 21mm. Unlisted, attributed by Kaye Dethridge.





EAGLE RIVER: Pay 'n Save, \$1 off your next prescription. Black on wood (ebay).





EAGLE RIVER: Eagle River Bowl, good for one game/Homestead Sports Lounge, good for one drink. Brass, 39mm.





(FAIRBANKS): Doyon Limited Daagá Fund, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Clean and Sober Lifestyle. Brz. 35mm.





FAIRBANKS: Eagles, Aerie 1037, good for one drink. 34mm, bronze with reeded edge and cupronickel with plain edge





FAIRBANKS: Military Appreciation Banquet Award Winner, 1 oz. silver. Mintage 50 (more will be struck).





FAIRBANKS: Tanana Lodge No. 3, F.&A.M., Oldest, Farthest North Masonic Lodge in North America. Bronze, 34mm. A similar medal was reported in the Sept./Oct. 1997 issue, but the lettering around the rim appears smaller than on this present specimen.

FOX: Howling Dog Saloon, good for one drink. Red on wood and black on wood. Illustrated next page.

(**JUNEAU**): Bullwinkle's Moose Money. Brass, 25mm. Appears to be a video game token (Kaye Dethridge). Illustrated next page.

FOR THE RECORD, cont.



(**JUNEAU**): Bullwinkle's Pizza Parlor/UAS (University of Alaska Southeast), Moose Money. Gold and white on light blue poker chip, 39mm.



JUNEAU: Bouy Deck, Rain Check. Gold on yellow plastic, 40mm (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



ALASKA: Associated General Contractors of Alaska, 1948-1998, 50 years. Struck by the Alaska Mint, ½ ounce Silver.





DAWSON, YUKON: KVA (Klondike Visitors Association), 500 KVA Bucks. Gold on clear plastic, 38.5mm (submitted by Jim Robb).

TOKENS NOT ILLUSTRATED

Below are tokens recently offered on eBay that, to our knowledge, have not been illustrated in any of the previous Alaska token catalogues.





ATKA: Sergius Golley Billiard Hall, B-1d







CORDOVA: The Mint, $6\sqrt[4]{4}$ ¢ in trade, B-25a. **DOUGLAS:** Salt Lake Bar, $6\sqrt[4]{4}$ ¢ in trade, B-37a.





FAIRBANKS: J&B Eagle Cigar Store, 12½¢ in trade, B-14a.





JUNEAU: J.M. Giovanetti, one loaf of bread, B-25a.